Claims

1. A method of thickening liquid hydrocarbon fuel oils, the method comprising mixing the hydrocarbon with an essentially paraffin polyolefin polymer in solid form to yield a thickened homogenous liquid solution, characterised in that the liquid hydrocarbon comprises commercial kerosene having a flashpoint greater than or equal to 62°C and the polymer has a molecular weight in the range 1.4 to 2.0 x 10^6.

2. A method according to claim 1, in which the kerosene has a concentration of 90 to <100% by weight and the polymer has a concentration of up to 5% by weight.

3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which the polyolefin polymer comprises a medium or high molecular weight polymer of an alkene.

4. A method according to claim 3, in which the alkene comprises a branched chain alkene.

5. A composition of matter comprising a thickened homogenous liquid solution of an essentially paraffin polyolefin polymer in solid form dissolved in a liquid hydrocarbon fuel oil, characterised in that the liquid hydrocarbon comprises commercial kerosene having a flashpoint greater than or equal to 62°C and the polymer has a molecular weight in the range 1.4 to 2.0 x 10^6.

6. A composition according to claim 5, in which the kerosene has a concentration of 90 to <100% by weight and the polymer has a concentration of up to 5% by weight.

7. A composition according to claim 5 or claim 6, in which the polyolefin polymer comprises a medium or high molecular weight polymer of an alkene.

8. A composition according to claim 7, in which the alkene comprises a branched chain alkene.

9. The use of a composition according to any of claims 5 to 8 as a barbecue lighting fuel.

Attachment to Amdt filed 06/18/09 for
U.S. Application No. 10/564,192
Applicant: Fredrick Vernon
Docket No. 12123-0007
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